PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

CLINICO-EPIDEMIOLOGIC AND DERMOSCOPIC FEATURES OF PEDIATRIC ALOPECIA – A STUDY FROM A TERTIARY CARE PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY CLINIC

Sanjeev Handa [1] - *Rahul Mahajan* [1] - *Manju Daroach* [1] - *Dipankar De* [1]

Postgraduate Institute Of Medical Education And Research, Department Of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprology, Chandigarh, India [1]

Introduction: Alopecia is a common dermatologic problem among children and may differ in etiology in comparison to adults.

Objective: There is paucity of data regarding the demographic profile of alopecia in the pediatric age group. Few available studies have highlighted infectious diseases like folliculitis, pediculosis, and tinea capitis and alopecia areata among non-infective causes of alopecia amongst children. The present study was aimed at providing a clinico-epidemiologic and dermoscopic description of various dermatoses that present as alopecia in children.

Materials and Methods: In this prospective study we included children aged less than 15 years who were brought by their parents primarily with complaint of hair loss during the one-year study period. A detailed history of the demographic features and presenting complaints was taken followed by clinical and trichoscopic examination.

Results: One hundred and nineteen children were included in the study. The most common cause of pediatric alopecia was alopecia areata (AA) in 85(71%) patients followed by tinea capitis in 9(7.5%), lichen plano pilaris in 4 (3.3%), and other uncommon causes like morphea and pseudopelade of Brocq. Nail changes were found in 40(33%) patients and pitting was most common finding in 22(18%) patients. On dermoscopy, presence of black dots was the most common trichoscopic finding in AA seen in 68% cases followed by exclamation mark hair in 54% patients, followed by off-white dots, yellow dots and vellus hair.

Conclusions: Hair loss is a common disorder in pediatric dermatology clinics accounting for up to one-fifth of children. AA is the most common cause of pediatric alopecia, and dermoscopy is an important diagnostic tool. Dermoscopy of pediatric AA shows scarce yellow dots while off-white dots are more frequent; presence of black dots is a good prognostic indicator.